G.XIV.

A DIALOGUE

Between Two BURGESSES,

About Chuſing their Next

Members of Parliament.

Tom. WHither ſo faſt, *Will?* What's the matter, man? Thou look'ſt as if thou waſt frighted.

Will. I think there's reaſon, *Tom:* for either our wiſe men are mad, or we are all ark fools; for the Parliament's Diſſolv'd again, and a New One to ſit at *Oxford*, ich being ſo unexpected, paſſes my underſtanding to unfold the meaning of it, d therefore I'll ſay nothing to it; but what I do underſtand is, That we are of- 'd brave Sparks to ſerve us, for there's Mr. *Sweetlips*, Mr. *Swallow-Oath*, Mr. *High-urch*, and Mr. *Sell-Truſt*, have all writ, and are coming Poſt to court us to be our rvants; and being thou art an underſtanding Coxcomb, that go'ſt to the Cof- houſe, and read'ſt all the News, I come to ask thee what we ſhall ſay to theſe ntlemen, who are woundy civil, and very earneſt to have our Promiſes.

Tom. I am afraid ſuch Servants will too ſoon be aſham'd of having us for their aſters, and we may repent too late the having ſuch coſtly Servants. But wil't omiſe them all four, when thou haſt but two to chuſe? Let's conſider them verally: Mr. *Sweetlips* you know is a Courtier: Now what's the buſineſs of a *rliament?* Does not the Court ſtill ſtrive there to get as much Money and Power they can? And the *Parliament* does or ſhould ſpare our Money, and preſerve our berty, as much as lies in their power; and do'ſt not ſee then that chuſing ſuch a e is ſetting the Lamb to the Wolf to Nurſe.

Will. Thou ſay'ſt right, we ſhould e'en be as wiſe as the men of *Gotam.* Well t becauſe he's a courteous fine Gentleman, and deſires to ſerve me, I'll tell him, hat if ever I have a Boon to beg of the King, or a Wedding-Suit to make in *ndon*, he ſhall have the honour, as he calls it, to be imployed by me before any an; but in this I muſt beg his pardon. But then what ſay'ſt to Mr. *Swallow-Oath*, ho though 'tis true he always herded with the Papiſts, and was thought one for- erly, yet he now conforms to the Law, takes the Teſt, and rails at Popery as uch as any man; and what ſhall we do with him?

Tom. Why if thou wilt do any thing to employ or truſt him, put a Halter about is Neck, throw him into the *Thames*, and tie him to an Anchor, and let him ſwim ere for a *Bouy*, which is the onely uſe ſuch a man is good for, that will turn with very Tide. But we muſt have ſuch Parliament-men as will ſtand as firm as ulwarks for our Religion and Liberty; and muſt be blown up, or batter'd down, efore they'l yield.

Will. Then ſure thou'lt be for Squire *High-Church*, whom they call a *Jure-Di-ino*-man; for he talks of nothing elſe but the Church, of which he is ſo true a on, that he ſwears over a Glaſs of Wine, he wou'd rather break ten Command- ents of God, then one of the Biſhops; and cut a hundred Fanaticks Throats, be- ore he would eat Fleſh on a *Friday:* Beſides, he is ſo pious, that he ſcorns all Laws nd Statutes, and proves by Texts of Scripture, The Prince and the Prelate in all Countreys have as much Power as the Turk and Mufty.

Tom. Squire *High-Church* is a very good man to ſome purpoſes, but every man his way, and none good for all things; I'll go to Church with him, but I won't

go with him to impriſon and ruine my fellow Proteſtants that meet at a Godly Exercise afterward in private, as if we muſt hang all that have more Piety then our ſelves. I had rather keep *Chriſtmas* with him, then *Lent*; rather truſt his Opinion in things wherein he uſes his own Reaſon, then where he pins his Faith on the Parſon's Sleeve; and rather truſt him in a difference betwixt me and my Neighbour, then make him my Repreſentative in Parliament: For his Principle is to be guided by the Clergy, their Principle is to make themſelves paſs for the Church, and then to take the beſt way to Preferment in it, and that beſt way is to make the King and the Biſhop abſolute, and that's the ſure way to make us all Slaves. Beſides, though perhaps he means well, yet I'm ſure he's miſtaken, whilſt by perſecuting *Diſſenting Proteſtants*, and magnifying the danger from them, he does that out of Simplicity which the *Papiſts* do out of Villany, when they forg'd the *Preſbyterian Plot* to make the *Proteſtants* deſtroy one another, who muſt needs maſter the *Papiſts* if they united among themſelves.

Will. Why ſure *Tom*, thou do'ſt not mean, I hope, to chuſe old *Sell-Truſt* the *Penſioner* again, though he bids moſt, and ſpends freeſt for it: for my part, I'd as ſoon vote for *Old Nick*.

Tom. He that ſells dear, may afford to buy ſo: But we are ſo much oblig'd to Mr. *Sell-Truſt* for his paſt Services, that I know not how to requite him as he deſerves, but thus: Let's promiſe all to Vote for him, if he'll Treat us Nobly; let's drink Sack, and feaſt jollily upon him till the day comes, and then let's tell him, There's a Scotch Proverb which ſays, *If a Man deceive me once, the Devil take Him; but if he deceive me twice, the Devil take Both*: And that ſince he voted our Money into his own Pocket, 'twas but juſt we ſhould wheadle ſome of it back again into our Belleys; but yet becauſe we would not break our words with him, nor let his old Maſter *Danby*'s new Directions to ſet them all at work again, produce nothing, we would Vote for him as we ſaid Unanimouſly, but it ſhould be, *That he and the reſt of his Brethren the Penſioners ſhould be all hang'd by the next Parliament*: And ſo we remain yours to ſerve you thus at any time, honeſt Mr. *Sell-Truſt*.

Will. Faith I cann't forbear laughing to think of the Jeſt on't; we'll be ſure to do't: But then who ſhall we chuſe man?

Tom. Who ſhou'd we chuſe, but Mr. *Blunt* and Mr. *Unity*? Men that we know wou'd rather enlarge then leſſen the Liberties of an Engliſhman, and the Pale of the *Proteſtant Religion*; that will not part with any of our Money till we are ſecur'd of the reſt; that will not be loo'd on the *Fanaticks* by a Trick, to ſave the *Papiſts*: In a word, Men that we have had good experience of, that they are Complement-proof, Feaſt-proof, Sermon-proof, and Bribe-proof: And if they don't court us, let us court them, and chuſe them whether they will or no; for they have but the Honour and the Trouble on't, but we have the Benefit and the Security.

Will. Troth, *Tom*, agreed; for I never heard of a Lords Head got in *Parliament* cheaper then the laſt was; and if we had had all the Bills the *Commons* paſt, I'd ha' been content to pay Taxes for one year with all my heart. Well I'll go whiſper this about, and enjoyn Secrecy, that we may not fail of obliging Mr. *Sell-Truſt*, as 'tis intended------But hold, I had forgot to tell thee one thing, they all ſay, That if we have any Exceptions to themſelves, 'twill pleaſe them as well if we chuſe their Sons.

Tom. Oh Fire! Murder! Treaſon! Then 'tis a plain Deſign to pack another Club of Voting Knaves to undo us: They care not who 'tis, ſo it be one of their own Gang: Truſt none of 'em, *Will.* A young Devil will cry, *I* & *No*, as well as an old one: The young Cock will crow after his Father; and if thou put'ſt a young Fox that never robb'd a Henrooſt into the Gooſe-pen, thou'lt ſoon ſee how Nature will teach him to play with the Flock. They have a mind to breed their Sons Knaves, and wou'd have us enter them in *Parliament* for them. Go thy way immediately, and do as thou ſaid'ſt, ſatisfie all thy Neighbours, and God ſpeed.

Will. Farewel: I'll fly about the Town in a minute.

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